

Libertarian Party urges: Celebrate our real Independence Day on July 3rd

Good news: It's the day you stop paying for taxes and regulation!

WASHINGTON, DC — Never mind the 4th of July: Americans should celebrate the **3rd of July** with festive fireworks and public parades, the Libertarian Party said today.

That's because July 3rd is "Cost of Government Day" — the day on which the average American has earned enough income to pay his share of government spending and regulation.

"On July 3rd, we can finally say: Free at last, thank God, we're free at last," said the party's national chairman, Steve Dasbach. "After working 183 days — more than half the year! — we're *finally* free from the burden of a government that spends too much, taxes too much, and regulates too much."

Cost of Government Day is calculated by the Americans for Tax Reform Foundation (ATRF), a non-profit, non-partisan think tank based in Washington, DC. The date is computed by adding the total spending of government (local, state, and federal), plus the cost of regulation.

In all, the ATRF pegs the cost of government at more than \$3.5 trillion. Of that amount:

- **\$1.757 trillion** is spent by the federal government.
- **\$1.002 trillion** is spent by state and local governments.
- **\$785 billion** is spent on direct compliance with federal regulations.
- **\$196 billion** is spent on state workers' compensation and tort costs.

"Government at all levels will spend 36.2% of the nation's gross national product this year," noted Dasbach. "That's \$13,500 for every man, woman, and child in America."

But instead of being depressed by the amount of money wasted by politicians, Americans should use July 3rd to declare a new kind of independence, urged Dasbach.

"Instead of celebrating our declaration of independence from an oppressive foreign government more than 200 years ago, we should use this day to declare our independence from the spendthrift politicians of 1997," he said.

"One way to do this: Vote for Libertarian candidates. If Libertarians were in Congress, you'd see the Cost of Government Day rapidly moving *backwards*," Dasbach promised. "On the other hand, if you think *politicians* can spend your \$13,500 better than you can, keep voting for Republicans and Democrats. They're more than happy to keep wasting your money — and happy to keep moving the Cost of Government Day closer and closer to December 31st."

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